

## Current Temporary Variances



Temporary variances from the production and handling requirements of the USDA organic regulations may be granted by the Administrator for natural disasters declared by the Secretary, damage caused by severe weather, or other business interruption, or for the purpose of conducting research in organic production or handling. Procedures for requesting temporary variances are described in [NOP 2606: Processing Requests for Temporary Variances](#). 7 CFR Section 205.290 provides the full regulatory text regarding temporary variances.

The list of temporary variances that are currently in effect or that were denied in 2013 is listed below. For a list of expired temporary variances, please visit <http://1.usa.gov/expired-temporary-variances>.

### 2013 Allowed Temporary Variances

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Effective Date	Expiration	Certifying Agent	Remarks
<b>Cottonwood Cattle Company</b>	Various	8/21/2013 <a href="#">View Letter</a>	8/21/2013	2013 grazing season	Quality Certification Services	Due to ongoing severe drought conditions, ruminants must be managed on pasture for 0 instead of 120 days. Farm must meet all other organic pasture requirements (sections 205.237(c) and 205.240) of the USDA organic regulations. This variance <u>only</u> applies to: (1) Cottonwood Cattle Company, Inc. operations in the <a href="#">specified counties</a> and (2) Non-irrigated pasture.
<b>Cottonwood Cattle Company</b>	Various	7/23/2013 <a href="#">View Letter</a>	7/23/2013	2013 grazing season	Quality Certification Services	Due to ongoing severe drought conditions, ruminants must be managed on pasture for 30 instead of 120 days. Farm must meet all other organic pasture requirements (sections 205.237(c) and 205.240) of the USDA organic regulations. This variance <u>only</u> applies to: (1) Cottonwood Cattle Company, Inc. operations in the <a href="#">specified counties</a> and (2) Non-irrigated pasture.

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Effective Date	Expiration	Certifying Agent	Remarks
Cottonwood Cattle Company	Various	6/18/2013 <a href="#">View Letter</a>	6/18/2013	2013 grazing season	Quality Certification Services	Due to ongoing severe drought conditions, ruminants must be managed on pasture for 60 instead of 120 days. Farm must meet all other organic pasture requirements (sections 205.237(c) and 205.240) of the USDA organic regulations. This variance <u>only</u> applies to: (1) Cottonwood Cattle Company, Inc. operations in the <a href="#">specified counties</a> and (2) Non-irrigated pasture.
Various	Various	6/7/2013 <a href="#">View Letter</a>	6/7/2013	2013 growing season	International Certification Services, Inc.	Due to damaged organic annual tobacco seedlings and unavailability of additional organic seedlings, <a href="#">specified operations</a> may use non-organic burley and dark tobacco annual seedlings for the 2013 growing season only.
Cottonwood Cattle Company	Various	5/23/2013 <a href="#">View Letter</a>	5/23/2013	2013 grazing season	Quality Certification Services	Due to ongoing severe drought conditions, ruminants must be managed on pasture for 90 instead of 120 days. Farm must meet all other organic pasture requirements (sections 205.237(c) and 205.240) of the USDA organic regulations. This variance <u>only</u> applies to: (1) Cottonwood Cattle Company, Inc. operations in the <a href="#">specified counties</a> and (2) Non-irrigated pasture.

### 2013 Denied Requests for Temporary Variances

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Effective Date	Expiration	Certifying Agent	Remarks
New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries	Wellington, New Zealand	Denied 5/9/2013 <a href="#">View Letter</a>	N/A	N/A	Multiple	Requested Variance: reduce the transition period for dairy animals to three months. Since AMS concluded this variance would adversely affect organic integrity, this request is denied.

This table is based on information submitted to NOP since January, 2010 and is updated when AMS Administrator decisions are issued.